REAM, VINNIE

DRAWER 23

Sculptors – R
(Plaques)

W. 2009. 093. 00891

# Statues of Abraham Lincoln

## Vinnie Ream Plaques

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71.2009.085.02991

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2012 with funding from
State of Indiana through the Indiana State Library

http://archive.org/details/statuxxxxxxxxxxxxxxhlinc

1H

Dexter Maine
Jan-9th 1939

Dr. Louis A. Warren-

I have been corresponding with Mr. P.P. Lohman of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. I have a plaster bas-relief of Lincoln that I want very much to sell. Mr Lohman suggested that I have a photograph made of it and send it to you- accompanied by a letter stating how it came into my possession- I had had it photographed- and it is really very good- but Minnie Reams mamma does

not come out as clear as it is on
the bas-relief -
My Uncle John A. Rice was a
member of Congress during the
36-37-38 Congress from the
Third District in Maine. His
home was in Bangor Maine.
While in Congress my Uncle and
Aunt became acquainted with
Fannie Ream - then a young
girl - and were greatly interested
in her - ; then my Uncle was the
one who influenced Mrs. Smith
to give her one half hour sittings
every day for six months - She
made a statue of him - that
stands in the Rotunda of the

Capitol in Washington the only one ever placed there by a woman. My Uncle knew Lincoln personally before he was President. When my Uncle returned to Bangor he and his family remained there several years - then returned to Washington - where he practiced law for many years - When leaving Bangor - my Uncle sent a case containing books - maps - and several small articles to my father here in Dexter - to be stored with his things - he might want them among the things was the bas-relief made by Vinnie Ream - and given to my Uncle - Always

thought it might have been given him in appreciation of the kindness shown her by my dear Uncle and Aunt - The last time it was many years ago, that my Aunt looked over the case - and took out a few books that my dear Uncle wanted she said now you can do what ever you want to with what is left she did not care to take the bas-relief - and gave it to my mother and me! I have had it since mothers death - Now, I am an aged widow - I have an unmarried daughter not strong who makes the home for me - we are in straightened circumstances consequently! would like very

much to see the bas-relief-
It is in good condition-keep clear
I am sorry to trouble you with
such a long letter-but
thought best to write it all out
just as I wrote it to Mr. Johnson-
I would greatly appreciate an
early reply-and I thank you
for any trouble that this may
put you to-

Very Sincerely
Harriett C. Burns

Mrs. H. C. Burns
49 Spring St
Dallas Texas

If you don't care
to keep the photo
please return-and
I will return amount
of postage.

January 17, 1939

Mrs. F. E. Burns
49 Spring Street
Dexter, Maine

Dear Mrs. Burns:

Due to Dr. Warren being absent from Fort Wayne on his annual speaking itinerary, I wish to take the pleasure of answering your letter of January 9.

We will be very much interested in getting further details regarding the bas relief of Lincoln by Vinnie Ream.

Would you be so kind as to give us a complete description of the item which would include size, condition of the plaster, and the price which you are asking for the item.

Have you any other items relating to Abraham Lincoln which you care to dispose of?

Yours very truly,

MAC:MB
M.A. Cook

Librarian

2/14 Replied

8/

Dexter, Maine

January 20th 1939

Lincoln National Life Foundation

Inc Dr. A. Cook-Librarian

Your letter of Jan-17th received and I am greatly pleased and encouraged at the interest shown in the bas-relief that I have. I am wondering if you received the Photo of the bas-relief that I mailed you under separate cover. I had it registered so that you would surely receive it.

The bas-relief is one inch larger
each way than the photo
shows - did I neglect to state
this in my letter - The plaster
is in fair shape - the color is just
a very faint tint - The only im-
perfect
edge of plaster shows a slight
that has always been there since
I first saw it - How as to the price
of it - of course I do not know the
true value of it The Librarian of
the Smithsonian Institution
told me of a portrait of Lincoln
was recently sold to the Hearst

collection for $900 - and resold to the Chicago Art Institute for $1,250 - Mr Charles Eugene Lefft a sculptor - who saw the item, has considered it a fine likeness and said it might be very valuable - if so it does seem as if it ought to be worth two or three thousand dollars - but I feel that Mr Johnson - by referring me to you - felt that you would offer me whatever you considered it worth to your collection - I thank you for

answering my letter so promptly and I shall feel anxious to hear from you again - If there are any more questions regarding this item, I shall be very glad to answer them -

Very Sincerely

Harriett L. Burns

Mrs F. E. Burns -
498 Spring St
Des Moines Iowa

Vernal Ream Report

January 25, 1939

Mrs. F. E. Burns
49 Spring Street
Dexter, Maine

Dear Mrs. Burns:

It is with much regret that I inform you that we are not permitted to make appraisals of any Lincoln items and before we could consider making the purchase we would have to have this information at hand. However, it is my opinion that our budget is so set up for the next year that it would be impossible for us to consider the purchase at any price near what you have mentioned.

If I am in error, upon Dr. Warren's return to Fort Wayne from his annual speaking itinerary I shall be very glad to get in touch with you.

Yours very truly,

MAC:PW
M.A.Cook

Librarian

10

Dexter Maine
Feb-23rd 1939

Dr Warren Dear Sir-

I have before me
Mr Cook's letter of Jan 27-and 25th
at that time you were away on
a lecture tour. I am wondering if
you have returned-and have
hoped that I would hear from
you regarding the bas-relief of
Lincoln-by Mrs Ream that I
have-and what you thought
of the photo-of Mrs-that at
the suggestion of Mr Johnson

of the Smithsonian Institution
that I had photographed and
sent to you by registered mail it
is a very good likeness of the bas-
relief - Annie Peams - name is
much plainer on the bas-relief
than on the photo - and it is
one inch larger each way than the photo
shows - and it is in good condition.
Now Dr Mason wont you please
make me an offer on what I have.
I think you will agree with me
that what I have is valuable,
and as I am in need of money
I am anxious to sell it - if you
dont care to take it - will you
kindly return photo - I am inclosing

stamps - for return of photo - if you don't decide to keep it - I am also inclosing a clipping from a late paper - regarding Annie Peams - statue of Liberty in the Capitol at Washington. I shall try and contact some other museums if you don't care to take what I have - I assume I placed too high a price on it - but I honestly think that it must be worth it. If you care to know who you have corresponding with - I will refer to Mr Jere Abbott - Director of the Art Museum at Smith College - This is his home town - his mother maintains

a lovely home here - and we are friends of long standing and I know that Jean as we always speak of him here will gladly give me permission to use his name for you to write to. I would like the clipping of Jamie Ream returned with the photo - I had to give one dollar duty to have the photo made. Really this is a lengthy letter - but I wanted to make every thing clear to you. I shall hope to have a prompt reply.

Sincerely

Mrs. H. E. Burns
49 Spring St -

Harriett La Burns

February 27, 1939

Mrs. F. E. Burns
49 Spring Street
Dexter, Maine

Dear Mrs. Burns:

I have just had an opportunity of talking with Dr. Warren regarding the plaque which you have for sale and am very sorry to inform you that we will not appraise any Lincoln item. This is a ruling which was laid down when the organization started ten years ago and it has never been broken.

Under separate cover I am returning the photograph of the Vinnie Ream plaque which you so kindly forwarded to us.

Yours very truly,

MAC:PW
M.A.Cook

Librarian

GARY W. WOOLSON BOOKSELLER
2514 WESTERN AVE
NEWBURGH, ME 04444-4753
207-234-4931

10/7/97

Lincoln Library/Museum
1301 South Harrison St
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Dear Sirs:

Daniel Weinberg of the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop suggested I write to you concerning a bas-relief of President Lincoln by Vinnie Ream. I have corresponded with several libraries and museums trying to fine out how many and when this relief was done. I have been unable to gather very much information to date except that the New-York Historical Society and the Fort Theatre Society each has a copy.

New-York Historical dates their copy (ca. 1865), it is plaster, and am enclosing a photograph, which you may keep for your files if interested.

Any information you may have and would share would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

REAM, VINNIE DRAWER 23

Sculptors – R
(Plaques)